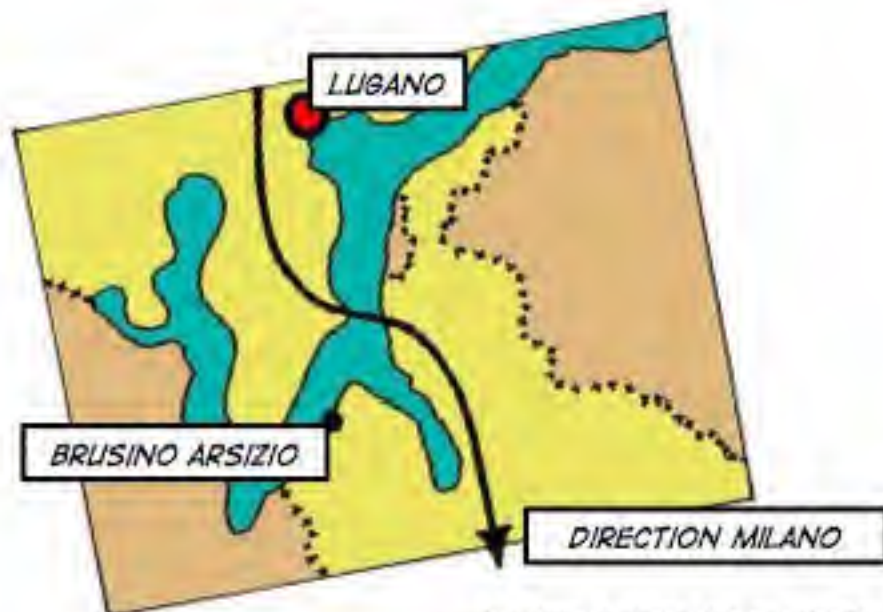


THE BRUISING MONSTER

A colorful illustration of a landscape. In the foreground, a large, bright blue lake occupies the middle ground. To the right, a small village with many houses with red roofs is built on a green hillside that slopes down towards the water. A road winds through the village. In the background, there are green hills and a large, grey, rocky mountain peak. The sky is a clear blue. The title 'THE BRUISING MONSTER' is written in large, stylized, blue letters with a white outline and a drop shadow, positioned across the top of the image.

Story & Design: Fred Voorhorst



IN THE SOUTH OF SWITZERLAND, AT THE LAKE OF LUGANO, IN THE SHADE OF THE MOUNT SAN GIORGIO WE FIND THE SMALL VILLAGE NAMED BRUSINO ARSIZIO. IN OVER 12 CENTURIES THINGS HAVE STAYED MORE OR LESS THE SAME

TRADITIONALLY BRUSINO ARSIZIO IS A VILLAGE OF FISHERMAN, BUT FOR SOME TIME FISHING IS NOT GOING WELL.. IT SEEMS AS IF THE LAKE IS EMPTY.....



SIGH... AGAIN A
POOR CATCH



LUCKILY, IN THE
SUMMER WE STILL
HAVE SOME
TOURISTS



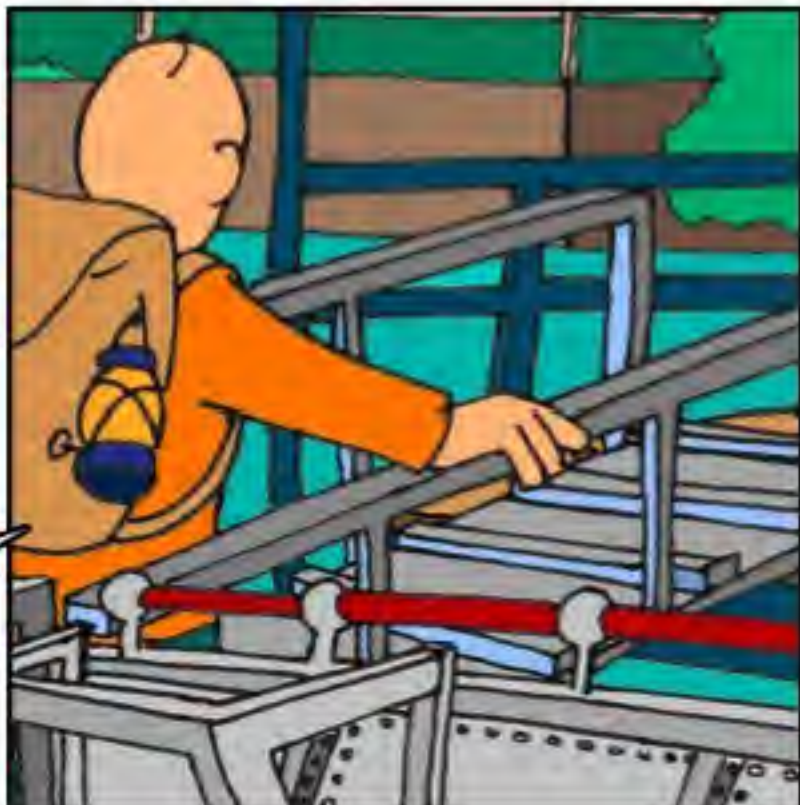
TOURISTS, MOST OF
THEM ARRIVE BY BOAT



AH.... BRUSINO
ARSIZIO....

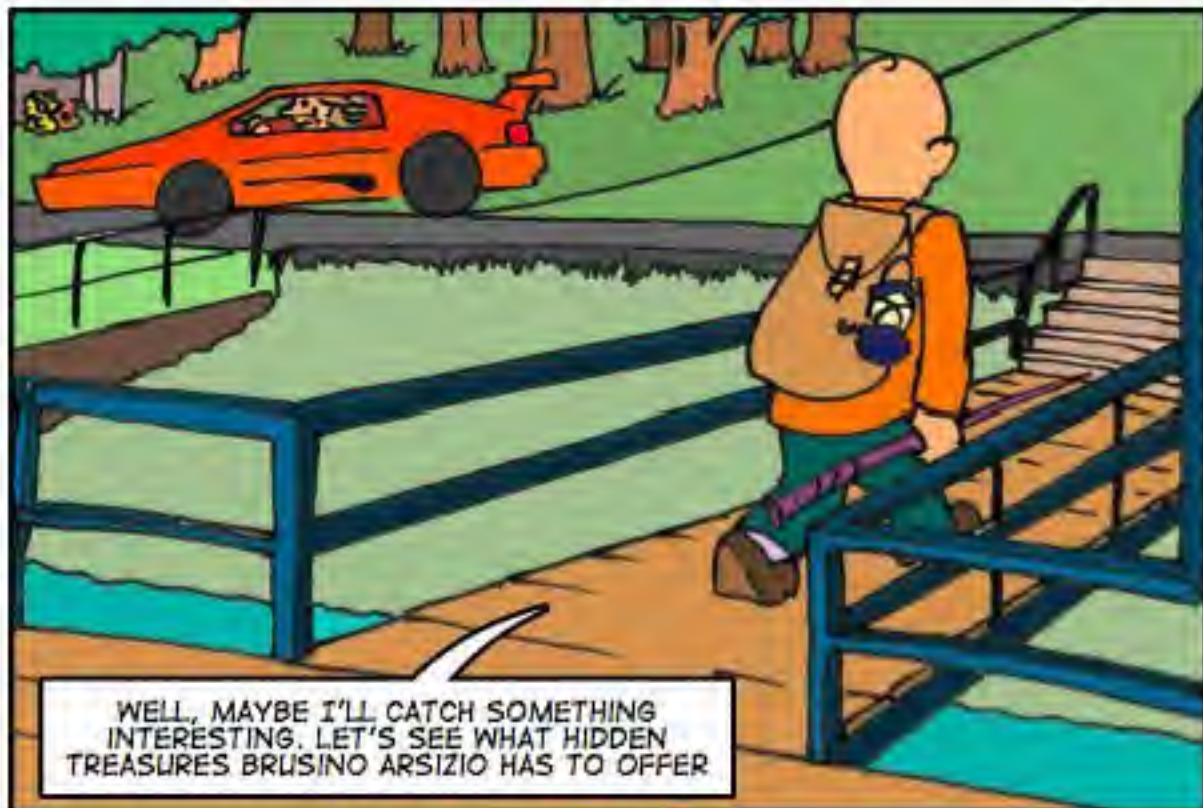


....SOME FISHING,
RESTING, WALKING AND
QUIET EVENINGS AT THE
BEAUTIFUL LAKE SHORE



BEAUTIFUL LAKES. INCREDIBLE DEEP. AT SOME
POINTS THE LAKE IS EVEN DEEPER THAN THE
MOUNTAINS ARE HIGH.... MYSTERIOUS...ANYTHING
CAN BE DOWN THERE





WELL, MAYBE I'LL CATCH SOMETHING
INTERESTING. LET'S SEE WHAT HIDDEN
TREASURES BRUSINO ARSIZIO HAS TO OFFER



KASPLASH.....
SPLASH...



ONLY THE WATER
AGAINST A DRAIN



FIRST, LET'S SEE THE
VILLAGE AND FIND SOME
REAL ITALIAN COFFEE





NO FISH.... BLA....BLA...
TERRIBLE....BLA...THE LAKE
IS EMPTY...BLA...ALL GONE

???



THE FISH MISSING.....THAT
IS BECAUSE OF THE POWER
FAILURE, A WHILE BACK.....



A FEW MONTH AGO THERE WAS A MAJOR POWER FAILURE IN BRUSINO ARSIZIO, REALLY HUGE. PROBABLY ONE OF THE OLD CABLES. THEY COULD NOT FIND THE PROBLEM AND HAD TO PUT IN A NEW CABLE. WE WERE WITHOUT POWER FOR THE ENTIRE WEEKEND



EVER SINCE THE FISH REDUCED DRAMATICALLY, AND NOW THE LAKE SEEMS COMPLETELY EMPTY....



RIGHT... FISH
DISAPPEARING
BECAUSE OF A
POWER FAILURE...



WHAT WILL THEY
THINK OF NEXT...







???

KASPLASH.....
SPLASH...
KASPLASH.....



THAT SOUND AGAIN...

MAYBE I AM IMAGING IT, AND IS IT
JUST THE NOISE OF THE TRAFFIC???









HMM... DEAD END.
NO THIS CANNOT BE
THE CAUSE OF IT



IT SEEMS TO BE
COMING FROM HERE....



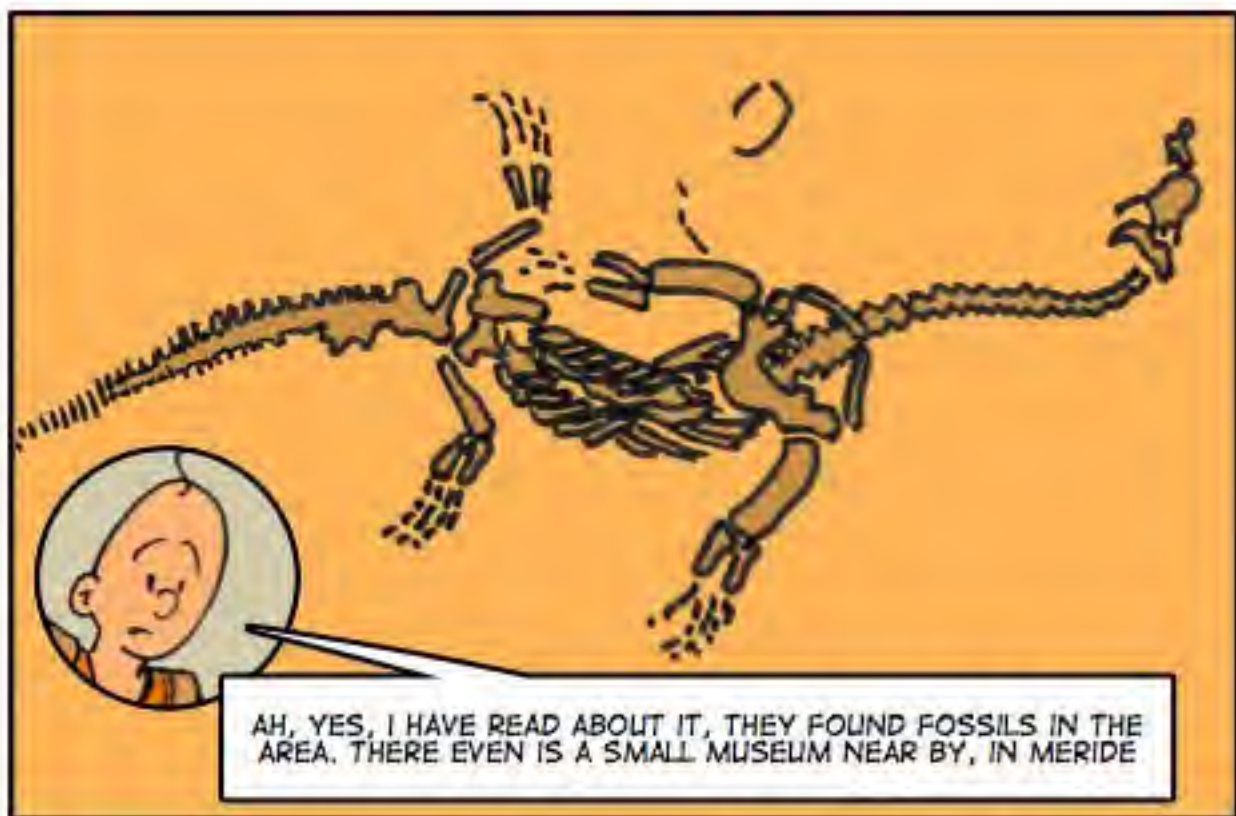





WHAT IS THAT???

A DINOSAUR SKELETON....







LUCKILY EXTINCT SO I DO NOT HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT RUNNING INTO ONE DOWN HERE...

ALTHOUGH IT LOOKED EXTREMELY
WELL PRESERVED FOR BEING
HERE SEVERAL CENTURIES



WHAT IS THA.....

AAAAAAGHHH..

..



AAAAAAAGHHH..
..



SMECK..
SMECK..
SMECK..



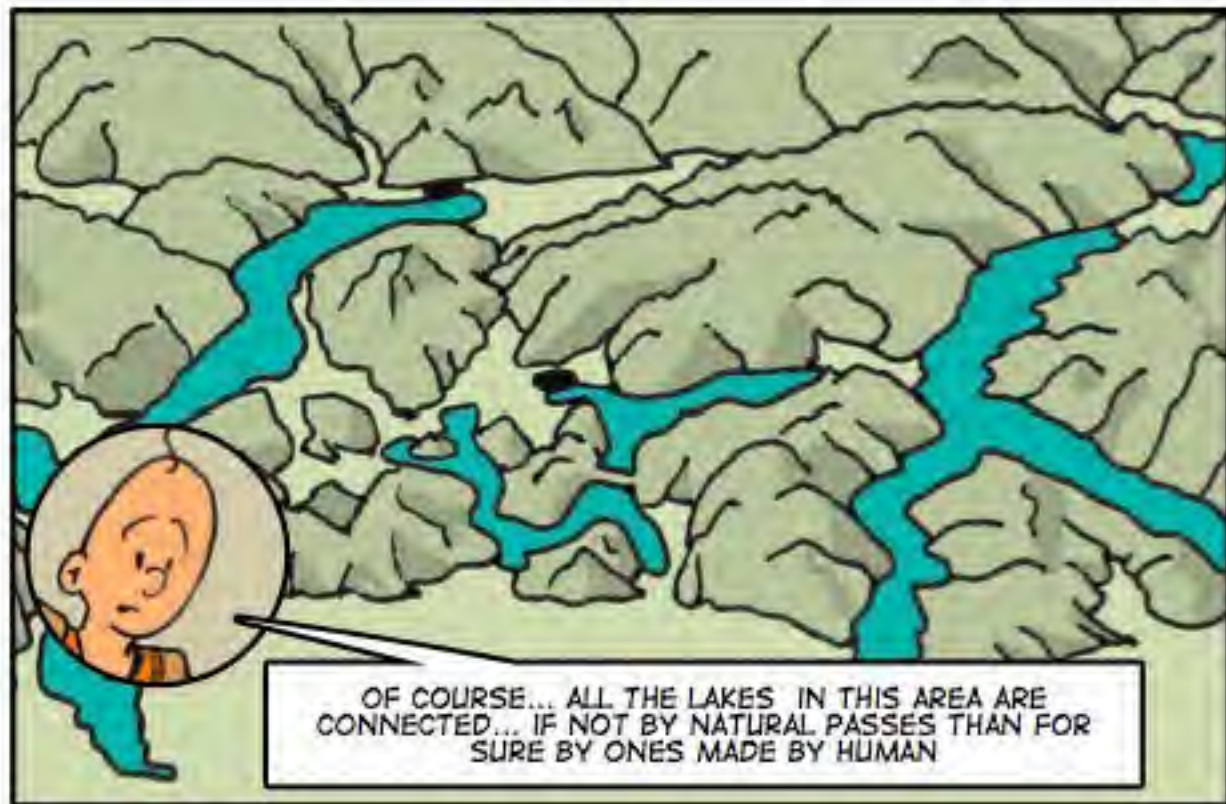




AND THAT SOUND...
NOTHING MORE THAN A TAIL
WIGGLING DINOSAUR....



HOW DID YOU GET HERE....
OH, AN OLD MINE SHAFT



ALTHOUGH THIS ONE
SEEMS CUT-OFF

BUT YOU COULD SQUEAK THROUGH...
OH, WHAT IS THAT?....AN BROKEN
POWER CABLE....

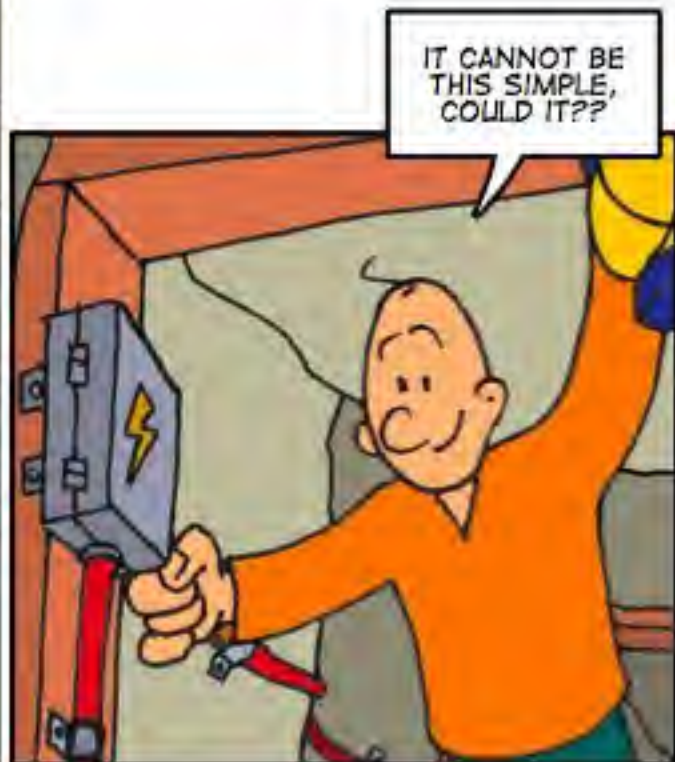
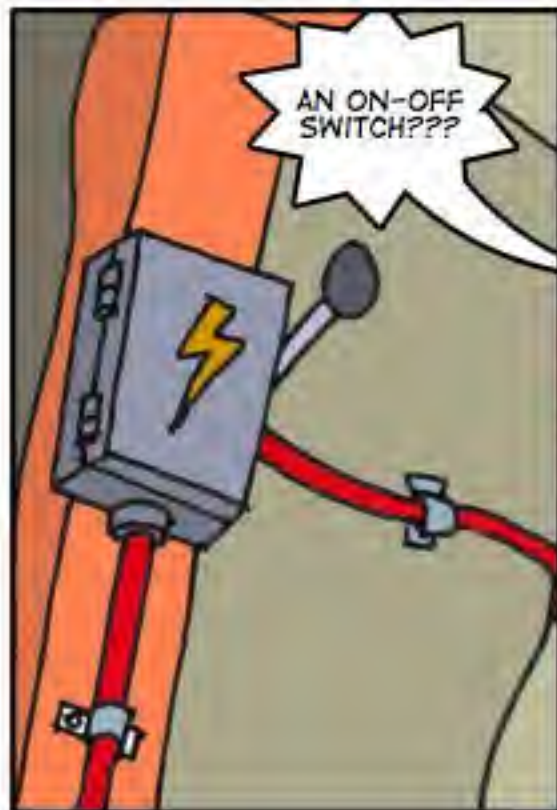




... SO THAT IS WHAT IS
SCARING YOU OFF...

LET'S SEE... MAYBE I
CAN FIND SOMETHING







AH... NOT INTERESTED
IN ME... JUST EAGER
TO GET TO ONE OF
THE OTHER LAKES





A DINOSAUR TRAPPED IN LAKE LUGANO
... NO WONDER FISH DISAPPEARED AND
WITH THE PASSAGE OPEN NOBODY WILL
EVER FIND IT AGAIN...

AND ALL FISH WILL SOON COME BACK
TO LAKE LUGANO





©FRED JUNE 2003

EPilogue

PART OF THE STORY IS BASED ON REAL EVENTS. WELL, A VERY SMALL PART.

- THERE ACTUALLY HAVE BEEN DISCOVERIES OF DINOSAUR FOSSILS ON THE SAN GIORGIO - NOW A PROTECTED AREA - WHICH CAN BE FOUND IN A MUSEUM IN MERIDE.

- THERE ACTUALLY WAS A HUGE POWER FAILURE PUTTING THE OLD CITY OF BRUSNIO ARSIZIO IN THE DARK FOR MORE THAN A WEEKEND.

- THERE REALLY IS A DRAIN THAT MAKES SPLASHY NOISES, NO DOUBT WAVES SMASHING AGAINST THE INSIDE OF THE DRAIN. BUT CAN IT BE THAT SIMPLE?

WATER AGAINST A DRAIN? COULD THERE BE SOMETHING MORE TO IT? MAYBE NOT SOMETHING 'FISHY', BUT SOMETHING 'FISHING'? A SET OF STRANGE EVENTS AND A PLAUSIBLE YET UNREALISTIC EXPLANATION. ADD TO THAT THE AMBITION TO 'START A RUMOR' AND THE IDEA FOR THE BRUSINO MONSTER WAS BORN.

EVENTUALLY, THE STORY MADE IT INTO THIS CARTOON, WHICH WAS PRINTED AS A SMALL BOOKLET AND DISTRIBUTED AMONGST THE CHILDREN OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL IN BRUSINO ARSIZIO.

THE STORY CAN BE DOWNLOADED IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES FROM MY WEB SITE WWW.BRUSINO.COM AS WELL AS PART TWO: THE MORCOTE BIBLE